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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 18 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the contents of document A/53/[illegible], dated 16 September 1998, relating to the recent developments in Afghanistan. The document contains baseless and false accusations about Pakistan's interference in that country. Pakistan firmly rejects these allegations.

Pakistan shares the concerns of the international community regarding the continuing conflict in Afghanistan and has been cooperating with efforts of the United Nations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and other neighbours of Afghanistan aimed at bringing about peace and conciliation in Afghanistan on the basis of respect for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of that country. Pakistan opposes outside interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan and, in this context, had proposed the imposition of a verifiable arms embargo.

Pakistan has condemned the excesses and bloodshed inside Afghanistan, including the killing of personnel of the Iranian Consulate in Mazar-e-Sharif. We are concerned over the recent tensions that have developed following this tragic incident and have appealed for restraint. We support urgent steps by the international community, especially the United Nations, to calm the situation in the area and help the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

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I would be grateful if the text of the present letter is circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and Permanent Representative